

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

For me, local channels are very important and it was a great sacrifice to lose them when I installed my satellite because I was not in a range that could receive them. The same goes for a few of my other (not local) favorite channels. By merging, the combined company would be able to offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger.!

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melanie Norton  
1184 Jefferson Street  
Alexander City, AL 35010